

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN FRASER HEARINGS - JUNE 5

1. FRASER HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES CONTINUED JUNE 5 WITH TESTIMONY FROM REVEREND PAUL WILSON (A PROTESTANT MISSIONARY RECENTLY EXPELLED FROM PHILIPPINES), HEHERSON ALVAREZ, (ANTI-MARCOS LEADER IN US, FORMER PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL AND FORMER SPEECH WRITER FOR RAMON MAGSAYSAY, JR.), AND EDWARD MORRIS (SAN FRANCISCO LAWYER, MEMBER OF BOARD OF REGENTS, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA). CONGRESSMAN FRASER PRESIDED OVER HEARINGS ACCOMPANIED BRIEFLY BY CONGRESSMAN BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL. COMMITTEE ROOM  
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WAS HALF-FILLED AND ONLY NEWSMAN IN EVIDENCE WAS BIRNEY

WIDEMAN OF FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW. HEARINGS HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY PRESS PLAY IN US.

2. ALL THREE WITNESSES PRESENTED THEIR VIEWS IN CALM AND IMPRESSIVE MANNER, CALLING FOR A TERMINATION OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID WHICH THEY FELT ONLY HELPED TO PERPETUATE MARCOS' ONE-MAN RULE. ALVAREZ AND WILSON ALSO APPEARED TO FEEL US SHOULD WITHDRAW ITS BASES FROM PHILIPPINES. ALL CHARGED THAT PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT USES TORTURE ON POLITICAL PRISONERS: WILSON TALKED FROM FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE OF

WHAT HE SAW DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT AND ALVAREZ RECOUNTED WHAT HE STATED WAS THE TORTURE AND MURDER OF HIS BROTHER.

3. FOLLOWING WITNESSES' PRESENTATIONS, CONGRESSMAN FRASER QUESTIONED WITNESSES AT LENGTH AND OCCASIONALLY INTERJECTED SOME OPINIONS OF HIS OWN. HE ASKED FOR WITNESSES' OPINION ON WHETHER THE US SHOULD CONTINUE TO AID COUNTRIES IN EAST ASIA OR WHETHER WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DISTANCE OURSELVES FROM COUNTRIES IN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OCCUR. SHOULD WE CONTINUE OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY OBLIGATIONS TO THE PHILIPPINES AND CONTINUE TO HAVE BASES THERE? DO THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE PERCEIVE AN EXTERNAL THREAT FROM ANY QUARTER? (ANSWER TO THIS LAST WAS A UNIFORM NEGATIVE). FRASER POINTED OUT THAT FROM HIS EXPERIENCE, PHIL PEOPLE DO NOT SEEM TO BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO MARCOS, THAT FEAR IS NOT PERVASIVE IN COUNTRY AND COUNTRY IS NOT "UPTIGHT". (ALVAREZ REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A CORRECT IMPRESSION INsofar AS THE URBAN AREAS WERE CONCERNED, BUT THAT IN RURAL AREAS THE FEELING WAS MUCH AKIN TO WHAT WAS FELT DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION.) FRASER OBSERVED THAT SOME POINTED TO WILLINGNESS OF "PEOPLE WITH GOOD REPUTATIONS" TO SERVE MARCOS GOVERNMENT AS INDICATION THAT GOVERNMENT WAS NOT TOO BAD. (ALVAREZ AGREED THAT THERE WERE THOSE WHO WERE WILLING TO WORK FOR THE GOP IN HOPES THEY COULD CHANGE MARCOS. HE FELT THEY WERE ONLY BEING USED BY MARCOS AND IT WAS BECAUSE OF "WISHY WASHY" PEOPLE LIKE THIS THAT MARCOS COULD CONTINUE TO RULE.) FRASER ASKED ABOUT VIEW THAT IF SENATOR AQUINO WERE IN POWER HE WOULD FOLLOW SAME PATH AS MARCOS (HE RECEIVED A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOUNDING NEGATIVE). FRASER TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON WHAT HE REGARDED AS THE "EXTRAORDINARY DECISIONS" OF THE SUPREME COURT IN THE AQUINO CASE SAYING "I HOPE THEY ARE NOT THE TYPE OF DECISIONS THAT OUR COURT WOULD FOLLOW." FRASER ASKED WITNESSES IF THEY HAD SEEN INSTANCES OF TORTURE. HE QUESTIONED BASIS FOR REV. WILSON'S CLAIM THAT THERE WERE 16,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PHILIPPINES POINTING TO HIS EXPERIENCE WITH OVERINFLATED FIGURES ON PRISONERS

IN VIETNAM. MAIN POINTS OF WITNESSES TESTIMONY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

4. REVEREND WILSON: DETAILED HIS ARREST, DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR COUNSEL, AND DEPORTATION CLAIMING "IN RETROSPECT, WHAT OCCURRED THE NIGHT OF JUNE 26 WAS A ROUND-UP OF THE PROTESTANT ECUMENICAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP" IN ORDER TO CRUSH INDEPENDENT CHURCH. WILSON CHARGED THAT DURING HIS TIME IN "OFFICES OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AT CAMP CRAME," HE WITNESSED PHYSICAL ABUSE AND TORTURE OF PRISONERS: HEARD SCREAMS, SAW LACERATIONS AND WELTS. ALSO

HEARD STORIES OF RAPE DURING INTERROGATION, USE OF CAKES OF ICE, DRUG ADDICTION AND ELECTRICAL SHOCKS. WILSON GAVE ACCOUNT OF SACRED HEART NOVITIATE RAID, SAYING GOP WAS SERVING NOTICE ON CHURCH THAT ANTI-GOP VIEWS WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. WILSON STATED IT WAS FILIPINO VIEW MARCOS COULD NOT MAINTAIN CONTROL OF GOP WITHOUT US ASSISTANCE AND ENDORSEMENT AND WOULD HAVE TO LIFT MARTIAL LAW IF THIS WITHDRAWN. WILSON POINTED TO FIGURES SHOWING THAT IN 3 YEARS SINCE MARTIAL LAW, US AID TO PHILIPPINES HAD INCREASED 60 PER CENT OVER PREVIOUS 3 YEARS.

5. EDWARD MORRIS: EXPOUNDED AT LENGTH ON HIS VIEW ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY AND THAT MARCOS, IF NOT BAD NOW, WAS BOUND TO BECOME MORE AND MORE TYRANNICAL AS TIME PROGRESSED. STATED THERE WAS REASON FOR "SEVERE POLICE REORGANIZATION OR IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW" IN 1972 BUT THIS NO LONGER NECESSARY. MARCOS GOVERNMENT NOW PLAYING UP MUSLIM REBELLION AS REASON FOR CONTINUED MARTIAL LAW, BUT AFTER RECENT VISIT TO MINDANAO MORRIS FELT THREAT BEING EXAGGERATED AND LOCAL SECURITY FORCES COULD HANDLE PROBLEM WITHOUT INTRUSION OF PHILIPPINE ARMY. MORRIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREED WITH FRASER THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT IN OPEN REBELLION OR EVEN CONTEMPLATING IT, BUT SAID THERE ARE SIGNS OF GROWING UNHAPPINESS AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL HOW VOLATILE SITUATION IS. MORRIS DETAILED HIS DISCUSSION WITH NUN (SISTER OF LILIOSA HILAO) WHO SAID HER SISTER WAS KILLED IN PRISON BY BEING FORCED TO DRINK MURIATIC ACID. WHEN FAMILY RECOVERED BODY, AUTOPSY IMPOSSIBLE AS PC DURING THEIR AUTOPSY HAD REMOVED ALL PARTS OF BODY WHICH CAME IN CONTACT WITH ACID.

6. HEHERSON ALVAREZ: GAVE SELF-POSSESSED AND DISPASSIONATE PRESENTATION OUTLINING EVENTS LEADING UP TO MARTIAL LAW AND POINTING OUT THAT MARCOS WAS NOW INSTITUTIONALIZING HIS ONE-MAN RULE IN PHILIPPINES. ALVAREZ STATED REGIME IS "CONSTITUTED WITH SKILLFUL BLEND OF VIOLENCE AND COER-

SION, MEDIA CONTROL WITH POPULIST PROPAGANDA AND ITS  
CURIOUS STRUCTURE OF CONSTITUTIONALISM." ALVAREZ DISCUSSED  
TERROR TACTICS OF GOVERNMENT IN COUNTRYSIDE. STATED THAT  
IN HIS AREA A SECRET POLICE GROUP KNOWN AS U-2 HAD BEEN  
CREATED AND IT WAS THIS ORGANIZATION THAT BRUTALLY KILLED  
HIS BROTHER TO PUNISH HIS FAMILY FOR THEIR VIEWS ON  
MARTIAL LAW. ALVAREZ SAID HIS FAMILY FORCED TO MOVE OUT  
OF COUNTRYSIDE AND THAT MURDERERS STILL AT LARGE AND  
OPENLY ASSOCIATED WITH AFP OFFICERS. ALVAREZ STATED HE  
DID NOT THINK THIS WAS ISOLATED CASE OF TERROR AND THAT  
PEOPLE IN COUNTRY VERY AFRAID OF MILITARY. (BOTH ALVAREZ

AND WILSON MENTIONED "SAFE HOUSES" TO WHICH PRISONERS  
WOULD BE TAKEN FOR INTERROGATION WITH TORTURE BY AFP.)

7. WITNESS STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN POUCHED. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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